

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:720
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
MID TERM REVIEW OF PDS SYSTEM
MANSINH PATEL,RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made mid-term review of Public Distribution System during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the results thereof;
- (c) whether the target fixed for that plan period has been achieved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a)&(b): The Planning Commission had made the recommendations after mid-term review of the Public Distribution System (PDS). These include:-

- i) Items other than rice and wheat need to be excluded from the purview of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- ii) Completely decontrol sugar and take it out of PDS.
- iii) The coverage of TPDS and food subsidy should be restricted to the population below poverty line.

(c),(d)&(e): With regard to TPDS, no quantitative targets were fixed for the 9th plan. However, to increase food availability to below poverty line families, the scale of issue of foodgrains has been increased to 35 kgs per family per month. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) for BPL families has not been revised since 25.07.2000. For the one crore poorest of the poor families, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched wherein 35 kg of foodgrains are being supplied at highly subsidized price of Rs.2 a kg for wheat and Rs.3 a kg for rice. The Sugar supplied under PDS has now been restricted only to BPL families in all States/UTs except the North-Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where it is being supplied to all ration cardholders.